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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Azerbaijani Republic welcomed the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 6 April 1993 in connection with our appeal regarding Armenian aggression in the Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan (S/25539). In the statement, the Council requests the Secretary-General "to ascertain facts ... and to submit urgently a report to the Council".

The Government of Azerbaijan is confident that the ascertainment of the facts will enable the Security Council to gain a clear picture of the actual situation and correctly assess the actions undertaken by Armenia in its aggression against Azerbaijan, impose appropriate sanctions against Armenia, and demand the speedy withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, which will help re-establish peace in the region. In this connection, I should like to present you with some facts.

I. Armenia is continuing its aggression against Azerbaijan and is ignoring the Security Council's demand for an immediate cessation of hostilities. This is confirmed by the following facts:

In the Fizuli district of Azerbaijan, troops of the Republic of Armenia are continuing a massed attack in the direction of the town of Fizuli. After intensive artillery preparation, on the morning of 9 April, Armenian troops gained control of the strategically important locality of Kyovshadly and, on 10 April, of the strategically important Gyzyl-Gaya hill. On 10 and 11 April, fierce battles were waged 2 kilometres from the town.

In the Djebrail district of Azerbaijan, the villages of Sur, Suleymanly, Chukhchular and others are under heavy artillery and mortar fire, which has caused considerable destruction; the number of dead and wounded is increasing.

In the Zangelan and Kubadly districts of Azerbaijan, Armenian troops launched an attack directly from the territory of Armenia in the direction of the settlements of Aligulushagi, Djibikli, Vezhneli and others. The artillery shelling of the town of Kubadly has left dead and wounded among the civilian population.

The capture of the town of Fizuli and the railway junction of Goradiz by the Army of the Republic of Armenia may lead to the complete encirclement of another four districts of Azerbaijan - Fizuli, Djebrail, Zangelan and Kubadly.

These districts have a total area of more than 2.5 thousand km^2, and an overall population of 215,000. Thus, to the two areas of Azerbaijan already occupied by Armenia - Nagorny Karabakh and Lachin-Kelbadjar - another may soon be added, and the civilian population is faced with a real threat of ethnic cleansing, to which the non-Armenian population of the two aforesaid areas has been subjected by Armenian troops.

II. Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan is further confirmed by the following facts:

Military strikes are being conducted directly from the territory of Armenia against another four regions of Azerbaijan situated on the frontier with Armenia - Kedabek, Tauz, Kazakh and Akstafa - which do not have common frontiers with Armenian-occupied Nagorny Karabakh in the Azerbaijani Republic. Armenia's argument that these districts pose a threat to the security of the Armenian population of Nagorny Karabakh is completely groundless, since the aforementioned districts are hundreds of kilometres away from Nagorny Karabakh.

The massed attack of the Armenian armed forces directly from the territory of Armenia against the Zangelan, Kedabek, Tauz, Kazakh and Akstafa districts and in the direction of the town of Kubadly is a perfectly obvious confirmation of our assertion that the aim of Armenia's armed aggression against Azerbaijan is to annex our territories, and this over and above its claims to Nagorny Karabakh. The aforementioned districts of Azerbaijan do not have a common frontier with Armenian-occupied Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

III. Armenia is ignoring and openly flouting the basic principles of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 6 April 1993 (S/25539), which is confirmed by the following facts:

- Instead of withdrawing its troops from Azerbaijani territory, Armenia is using the scandalously designated "humanitarian" Lachin corridor to bring additional war equipment, arms and military sub-units into Azerbaijan.

- Instead of halting hostilities, Armenia, having occupied the Kelbadjar, Lachin and Nagorny Karabakh districts in Azerbaijan, has opened a new front and is stepping up its aggression in the area of the Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubadly and Zangelan districts of Azerbaijan.

- Instead of taking advantage of the fact that the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 6 April 1993 does not refer directly to the Armenian armed forces (the words "local Armenian forces" do not reflect the real state of affairs) and withdrawing them from the territory of Azerbaijan, Armenia is subjecting the Kazakh, Akstafa, Tauz, Kedabek, Zangelan and Kubadly districts of Azerbaijan to concentrated rocket-artillery shelling directly from Armenian territory.

- Instead of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers of the Azerbaijani Republic, a State Member of the United Nations, Armenia is continuing to seize and occupy Azerbaijani territory district by district.

- Instead of creating conditions conducive to a peaceful settlement of the conflict, Armenia is refusing to withdraw its troops from the occupied territories, as is unambiguously demanded in the statement by the President of the Security Council, and which is the main condition for the peace talks.

- Instead of allowing the international community to provide unhindered humanitarian assistance to the civilian Azerbaijani population caught in the combat zone, Armenia is stepping up its military operations, which is resulting in additional hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

IV. The above facts confirm that Armenia's actions contradict the demands contained in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 6 April 1993, and make it clear that Armenia intends to expand its aggression into Azerbaijan with a view to seizing as much territory as possible from Azerbaijan and completing its policy of ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories before the Security Council adopts a resolution condemning Armenian aggression and imposes sanctions against it in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In connection with the foregoing, we request that:

When the Security Council considers this question, you take into consideration the information provided by the Government of Azerbaijan on various aspects of the current situation arising from Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan;

In connection with Armenia's continued aggression, which poses a serious threat to peace and security in the region, the time has come for the Security Council to take urgent measures to end the bloodshed and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians and, in the shortest possible time, continue its consideration of the question, as proposed in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 6 April 1993 and, in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX):

- condemn Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, since Armenia, ignoring the aforementioned statement by the President of the Security Council, is stepping up its aggression in the territory of Azerbaijan;

- demand that Armenia immediately halt its armed aggression and withdraw all its troops from occupied Azerbaijani territories;

- impose sanctions against the Republic of Armenia if it does not comply with the demands of the Security Council.

I should like to assure you that Azerbaijan intends to adhere strictly to the Security Council's appeal to "refrain from any action that will obstruct a

peaceful solution to the problem", continue the peace talks within the framework of the Council's demand that Armenia withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States of the region and the inviolability of their borders.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative